



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.0 percent for February 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was three-tenths of a percentage point above the January 2001 rate of 2.7 percent, but it was down four-tenths of a percentage point from February 2000. There was an increase in the number of employed individuals over the month, from 234,100 to 234,500, and an increase in the number of unemployed individuals, from 6,500 to 7,200. This created an increase of 1,100 individuals in the Boise City MSA's *Civilian Labor Force* from January to February. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the February 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: February 2001
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	174,658	4,248	2.4	170,411
Adams	1,619	241	14.9	1,378
Boise	2,268	128	5.7	2,140
Canyon	67,049	2,976	4.4	64,074
Elmore	9,362	559	6.0	8,803
Gem	6,259	391	6.3	5,868
Owyhee	3,955	180	4.5	3,775
Payette	10,671	830	7.8	9,841
Valley	4,173	318	7.6	3,855
Washington	4,921	503	10.2	4,418
Statewide	668,852	30,891	4.6	637,961

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 2,600 between January and February 2001, and grew by 12,500 from February 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 100 jobs over the month. Job losses in *Construction & Mining* (300 jobs), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100 jobs), and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Component Manufacturing* (100 jobs), outweighed job gains in *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manu-*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment

	Feb 2001*	Jan 2001	Feb 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	241,700	240,600	229,300	0.5	5.4
Unemployment	7,200	6,500	7,800	10.8	-7.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.7	3.4		
Total Employment	234,500	234,100	221,500	0.2	5.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	241,300	239,500	229,200	0.8	5.3
Unemployment	8,800	8,500	9,400	3.5	-6.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.5	4.1		
Total Employment	232,500	231,000	219,800	0.6	5.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	226,400	223,800	213,900	1.2	5.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	52,600	52,700	51,100	-0.2	2.9
Mining & Construction	15,100	15,400	14,600	-1.9	3.4
Manufacturing	37,500	37,300	36,500	0.5	2.7
Durable Goods	28,900	28,800	28,100	0.3	2.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,100	3,500	0.0	-11.4
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	700	1,000	14.3	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,400	2,500	-4.2	-8.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,200	8,200	7,900	0.0	3.8
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	12,600	12,700	11,700	-0.8	7.7
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,600	2,000	6.3	-15.0
Other Durable Goods	2,100	2,000	1,800	5.0	16.7
Nondurable Goods	8,600	8,500	8,400	1.2	2.4
Food Products	5,700	5,700	5,700	0.0	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	800	12.5	12.5
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	173,800	171,100	162,800	1.6	6.8
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,000	12,100	11,500	-0.8	4.3
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,300	0.0	7.9
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,200	5,300	5,200	-1.9	0.0
Trade	56,600	56,000	52,200	1.1	8.4
Wholesale Trade	14,000	13,900	13,000	0.7	7.7
Durable Goods	8,600	8,500	7,800	1.2	10.3
Nondurable Goods	5,400	5,400	5,200	0.0	3.8
Retail Trade	42,600	42,100	39,200	1.2	8.7
General Merchandise Stores	5,700	5,500	4,100	3.6	39.0
Foods Stores	7,700	7,800	7,600	-1.3	1.3
Eating & Drinking Places	14,300	14,100	13,900	1.4	2.9
Other Retail Trade	14,900	14,700	13,600	1.4	9.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,100	10,900	11,100	1.8	0.0
Services	58,900	58,300	54,900	1.0	7.3
Business Services	14,400	14,500	13,500	-0.7	6.7
Health Services	17,100	17,000	16,000	0.6	6.9
Hospitals	7,800	7,800	7,300	0.0	6.8
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,700	4,700	4,300	0.0	9.3
Other Services	22,700	22,100	21,100	2.7	7.6
Government	35,200	33,800	33,100	4.1	6.3
Federal Government	5,000	5,000	4,900	0.0	2.0
State Government	13,400	12,300	12,300	8.9	8.9
Education	5,000	4,000	4,200	25.0	19.0
Administration	8,400	8,300	8,100	1.2	3.7
Local Government	16,800	16,500	15,900	1.8	5.7
Education	11,200	11,000	10,700	1.8	4.7
Administration	5,600	5,500	5,200	1.8	7.7

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

facturing (100 jobs), and *Other Durable and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (200 jobs total) to create a net loss of 100 jobs from January 2001 to February 2001. Year-over-year, most industries gained employment, with the exception of *Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing*, *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing*, and *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods Manufacturing*. *Goods-Producing Industries* added a total of 1,500 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the Boise City MSA. This increase accounted for 12 percent of all new *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added year-over-year.

Service-Producing Industries added 2,700 jobs in the Boise City MSA from January 2001 to February 2001. The only industries that accrued a loss over the month were *Communication & Electricity*, *Gas & Sanitary Services* (100 jobs), *Food Stores* (100 jobs), and *Business Services* (100 jobs). The largest job gain was noted in *State Government Education* (1,000 jobs), as the new semester at Boise State University started after the week of January 12, and educators moved back to work on campus after the break between fall and spring semesters came to an end. Compared to February 2000, *Service-Producing Industries* gained 11,000 new *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, accounting for 88 percent of all new *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. All *Service-Producing Industries* gained employment year-over-year, with the largest increases occurring in *Retail Trade* with 3,400 jobs (most notably in *General Merchandise Stores*, *Eating & Drinking Places*, and *Other Retail Trade Establishments*), *Services* with 4,000 jobs (most notably in *Business Services* and *Health Services*), and *Government* with 2,100 jobs.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

High-Tech layoffs in the Boise City MSA

Announcements of layoffs within the high-tech industries in the Treasure Valley in the past month have sparked some conversations about the future of these industries in the area. Layoffs occurred at the following companies in recent months as a result of a weakening economy: SCP Global Technology, MCMS, Jabil Circuit, Hewlett Packard, Micronpc.com, and ZiLOG. More than 800 workers in this industry are out of work as a result of these layoffs. Not included in that count are at least another 700, because a number of temporary workers that were working for the companies are no longer needed. Further exploration is needed as to the outcome of the layoffs, but the forecast is very optimistic for the region as the economy could change at any minute and those workers who lost their jobs could be called back at any time, or they will find other jobs that utilize their skills in another industry within the area.

Throughout the Treasure Valley, economic development officials remain optimistic that the layoffs will not create chaos within the local economy.

2000 CENSUS: POPULATION UPDATE

The 2000 Census population data has finally come out and Treasure Valley Table 3 illustrates the popula-

Treasure Valley Table 3: 2000 Census-Population Data for Southwest Idaho					
Area	1990	2000	Number Change	Percent Change	2000 Rank (Statewide)
Ada	205,775	300,904	95,129	46.2%	1
Boise	126,685	185,787	59,102	46.7%	
Eagle	3,327	11,085	7,758	233.2%	
Garden City	6,369	10,624	4,255	66.8%	
Kuna	1,955	5,382	3,427	175.3%	
Meridian	9,596	25,323	15,727	163.9%	
Adams	3,254	3,476	222	6.8%	41
Council	831	816	(15)	-1.8%	
New Meadows	534	533	(1)	-0.2%	
Boise	3,509	6,670	3,161	90.1%	37
Crouch	75	154	79	105.3%	
Horseshoe Bend	643	770	127	19.8%	
Idaho City	322	458	136	42.2%	
Placerville	14	60	46	328.6%	
Canyon	90,076	131,441	41,365	45.9%	2
Caldwell	18,586	25,967	7,381	39.7%	
Greenleaf	648	862	214	33.0%	
Melba	252	439	187	74.2%	
Middleton	1,851	2,978	1,127	60.9%	
Nampa	28,365	51,867	23,502	82.9%	
Notus	380	458	78	20.5%	
Parma	1,597	1,771	174	10.9%	
Wilder	1,232	1,462	230	18.7%	
Elmore	21,205	29,130	7,925	37.4%	11
Glenns Ferry	1,304	1,611	307	23.5%	
Mountain Home	7,913	11,143	3,230	40.8%	
Gem	11,844	15,181	3,337	28.2%	20
Emmett	4,601	5,490	889	19.3%	
Owyhee	8,392	10,644	2,252	26.8%	25
Grand View	330	470	140	42.4%	
Homedale	1,963	2,528	565	28.8%	
Marsing	798	890	92	11.5%	
Payette	16,434	20,578	4,144	25.2%	14
Fruitland	2,400	3,805	1,405	58.5%	
New Plymouth	1,313	1,400	87	6.6%	
Payette	5,672	7,054	1,382	24.4%	
Valley	6,109	7,651	1,542	25.2%	31
Cascade	877	977	100	11.4%	
Donnelly	135	138	3	2.2%	
McCall	2,005	2,084	79	3.9%	
Washington	8,550	9,977	1,427	16.7%	26
Cambridge	374	360	(14)	-3.7%	
Midvale	136	176	40	29.4%	
Weiser	4,571	5,343	772	16.9%	
Regain 3 total	375,148	535,652	160,504	42.8%	
Statewide	1,006,734	1,293,953	287,219	28.5%	

tion information available for counties and cities in Southwest Idaho. As you can see, all counties in Southwest Idaho showed an increase in population over the decade. The fastest growing cities in the area were Placerville in Boise County (328.6 percent), Eagle (233.2 percent), Kuna (175.3 percent), and Meridian (163.9 percent). Nampa was the fourth-largest city in the state in 1990, but 2000 Census statistics show that Nampa is now the second-largest city in the state, with a population of 51,867. For an in-depth analysis of the census results, please see the FYI section at the end of this newsletter.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- The Washington Group, International, formerly Morrison Knudsen, announced in early March that it faces another financial crisis. Company officials are looking at various ways of solving the financial problems that may include selling all or part of the company or even filing for bankruptcy. According to company officials, the financial problems were caused by cost overruns and losses associated with several projects that it acquired with its purchase of Raytheon Engineers & Constructors last July. The company remains optimistic that the financial problems are only temporary. No solution has been formally announced to the public.
- Alaska Airlines opened the doors of its newest Reservations-Sales Call Center in Boise in mid-March. The company currently employs 120 people, and has plans to hire an additional 80 in the future. The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured the Alaskan native Tsimshian Haayuuk Dancers, who shared traditional story-telling dances to drums, along with tours of the new facility. The new call center is located at 1399 South Eagle Flight Way, on Overland Road near the Maple Grove intersection and features approximately 14,400-square-feet of floor space that can accommodate 126 workstations. The facility in Boise marks the fifth reservation center for Alaska Airlines in the United States.
- Bath & Body Works opened its newest location in Nampa's Karcher Mall in early March. This is the first new store to locate in Karcher Mall since its \$3.2 million remodel. The new anchor store, Ross Dress for Less, has already started construction and should open in September. JoAnn Fabrics moved into its new location within the mall, which is next to the Emporium, and features 20,000-square-feet of floor space as well as an outside entrance. In late April, Musicland will convert to a Sam Goody store and will move to a larger location.
- Palm, Inc. of California announced plans in early March to purchase Boise-based Extended Systems for \$264 million. Both companies' stockholders still must approve the deal. If approved, Extended Systems' stockholders will receive shares of Palm equal in value to their current Extended Systems shares. If the deal is approved, no major change in employment at the current Boise location is expected.
- Micron Electronics, Inc. and Interland, Inc. announced plans in late March to merge their Web-hosting businesses; HostPro is Micron Electronics' Web-hosting subsidiary. MEI also announced plans to sell off its non-hosting businesses, Micronpc.com and SpecTek. Micron Electronics and Interland shareholders still must approve the merger.
- The former Cineplex Odeon Theater in Nampa reopened under the management of the Boise Reel Theatre in conjunction with the White Management Development Company (owner of the shopping center where the theater is located). The location will now feature discount shows. The cost of tickets at the discount theater is now \$2 a show.
- Groundbreaking for phase one of the Idaho Horse Park is scheduled for June 2001. This will include two covered horse barns that will contain 260 stalls. At least one of the barns will be finished in time for the Snake River Stampede in July. Thirty-five acres surrounding the Idaho Center will encompass the park when the entire project is complete, which will make Nampa a destination point for horse and livestock enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.
- Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) started construction of the Helstrom Business Center in early March. The two-story 28,000-square-foot building will house all faculty and staff of the Department of Business and Economics. NNU's traditional undergraduate program, the accelerated delivery degree program, the Master's of Business Administration program, and the Center for Leadership will all be headquartered in the new building, upon completion. The new classrooms and 163-seat auditorium will be equipped with wireless computer capabilities. Completion of the project is expected by December 2001.
- Hehr International announced plans to close its Nampa window manufacturing plant in April. The closure will put 75 employees out of work. The company has a glass manufacturing plant in Los Angeles, and the plan is to add the window-

manufacturing component to that plant. The move is a cost-saving decision made earlier by management.

- The Western Canyon Youth Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new home in Caldwell in early March. The new building is located on Kimball Avenue in Caldwell and has some new features that were unavailable at the old location, which include a computer room, a lounge with many comfortable couches and chairs, a fully stocked kitchen, and a game room.

Elmore County

- Construction of the Three Springs juvenile sex-offender facility in Mountain Home began in late March. The campus will include a cafeteria, kitchen, two school buildings, and two dormitories. The 60-bed facility will provide behavioral healthcare to at-risk youth and their families, with 21 treatment and educational programs. About 70 persons will be employed at the facility in Mountain Home when it is operational.
- The South Fork Boise River Senior Center held its groundbreaking ceremony in mid-March. When completed, the Pine/Featherville facility will primarily be used as a senior center, but it will also be used as a gathering place for other activities for area residents.
- Enchanted Memories held its grand opening in mid-March. The store, located at 172 North Main Street in Mountain Home, offers a wide variety of merchandise that covers every age group and every interest. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gem County

- The Gem County District Courtroom recently went through a remodeling project that allows more efficient use of the space. A new sound system was installed that includes wireless speakers located above the galley, jury box, judge, and attorneys. The jury box was relocated, and individual spectator chairs in the galley were replaced with bench seating. New carpeting was installed throughout the courtroom, judges' chambers, jury room, and hallway.
- An information fair, sponsored by the Emmett Job Service, was held on March 15th and 17th in the basement of the Boise Cascade Employees Credit Union building. The fair was designed for Boise Cascade workers, but everyone in the community was invited to meet with representatives from Boise

State University, Treasure Valley Community College, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Idaho Tax Commission, and the Emmett Job Service.

Valley County

- The Brundage Mountain expansion has been postponed until summer, 2002. Delays in getting approval from the Payette National Forest prompted the postponement. If approved by Payette National Forest, phase one of the project will begin in summer, 2002. When completed, the expansion project will include the addition of five new ski lifts and 22 new ski runs. The addition of the lifts will increase mountain capacity from 3,400 to 7,200 people per hour. An additional 42,000-square-feet of building space will also be added, which would include a new skier services building at the base of the mountain and a new mountaintop lodge. Officials at Brundage expect that the expansion will increase skier visits and reduce crowding on the mountain.
- Shore Lodge in McCall has officially changed its name to Manchester at Payette Lake. Officials at the resort have announced that the reopening will be pushed back another year, to June of 2002. Construction delays on the lodge and the nearby White-tail Golf Course prompted the delayed opening.
- In early March, the McCall Planning and Zoning Commission approved the construction of the proposed Holiday Inn Express at the south end of McCall. The three-story motel will be located on Idaho Highway 55, across from the Pancake House. When completed, the facility will include 125 guest rooms, several meeting rooms, a swimming pool, and a spa. It will be the largest motel in McCall.

Washington County

- The Idaho Travel Council recently awarded the Weiser Chamber of Commerce a \$4,000 matching grant that will be used towards new brochures showcasing Washington County, primarily Weiser and surrounding areas. The most recent brochure was done in 1993 and much has changed in the area since that time. The new brochure will be used as a tourism tool that will go into tourist and relocation packets.

Jennifer Pirtle, Labor Market Analyst
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 895-6642
E-mail: jpirtle@labor.state.id.us